

December 10, 2013
House Judiciary Committee Meeting

Committee Chairman, Representative Cotter,

Thank you for this opportunity to address the House Committee regarding Bill #4271.

This bill weighs heavily protecting and supporting the marijuana industry, medical marijuana patients and caregivers. Once again, there is no regard for the protection of neighborhoods, communities, children and private citizens living where the growing, processing and/or distribution of medical marijuana are occurring.

There needs to be language written into this bill protecting of all Michigan citizens. The bill needs language providing equality of the law and not left up to local control.

Some specific issues needed to be added to this bill:

1. Prohibiting Medical Marijuana Provisioning Centers and Safety Compliance Facilities from being located in residential zoned areas.
2. Environmental air quality concerns should be mandated protecting the air/health and quality of life for residents in these locations.
3. Pre-primary needs to be added to the Section 7, (1) It now states primary or secondary school.

There are Head Start programs Michigan that are not in primary or secondary schools.

Children ages 0-5years should have equal protection.

In order to explain the above three recommendations, I want to share our neighborhood's problem regarding the growing, processing and/or distribution of marijuana in our residential zoned neighborhood. I am here today representing our neighborhood.

There is a home on our street that is growing, processing and I am assuming distributing marijuana.

There is stench of skunk odor that comes from this property. It has been on going since January 2012. This skunk odor has increase in frequency and intensity. Along with this skunk odor comes the bi-products of mold/fungus/pesticides and or anything else that is in the plants. The processing fumes are released and blown into our neighborhood.

These are toxic to all who have any kind of respiratory illness. These toxic fumes can become life threatening, closing our wind pipes and causing asthma attacks. Three of our property owners (including me) have asthma. Other complaints have been ringing ears, burning eyes, headaches, sore throats and coughing. My health and life has been greatly affected in a negative way since the passing of MI's Medical Marijuana Law.

We have become prisoners in our homes. We have to keep our windows and doors closed. We cannot enjoy our property outside because we never know when the odor and processing will began, bringing on asthma attacks. There have been occasions I have had to wear a mask inside my home because the odor was so strong it seeped inside. This property is also within 1000 feet of a school property. Children walk past this home on their way to school. Who is protecting their health and safety? Some may have health problems that are affected by these bi-products and do not realize what is causing their problems.

Our neighborhood has been diligent trying to make changes locally regarding for our problem. I will run out of time if I tell you all we have done to correct our problem. The property owner was issued a "cease and desist" order from acting as a caregiver on the property on November 4, 2013. However, as of yesterday, December 9, 2013 we had the marijuana processing odor in our front and back yard.

Our neighborhood property values have dropped, our quality of life has been diminished,

and it has affected our health and caused fear for safety. We have experienced first hand the negative side of growing, processing and or distributing marijuana since the Michigan's Medical Marijuana law was passed.

Why are the rights and health of medical marijuana patients more important than the rights and health on non-medical marijuana citizens?

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

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